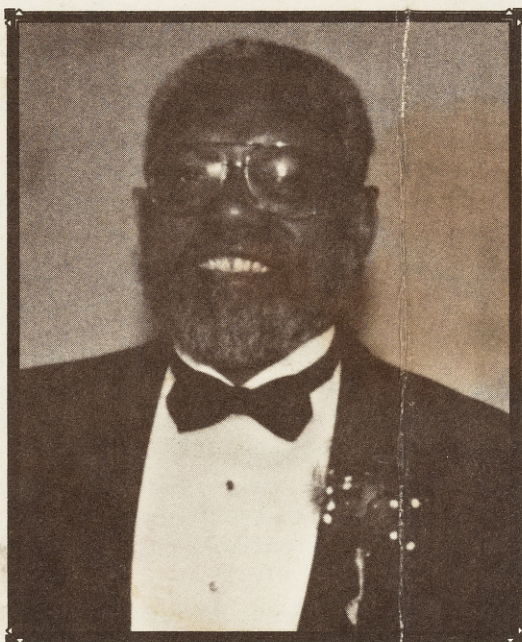


A Celebration Into
LIFE
Everlasting



Pastor Benjamin J. Crouch, Jr.
1940-1995

Thursday, February 16, 1995, at 10:00 a.m.

**Christ Memorial
Church of God in Christ
13333 Vaughn Street, Pacoima, California
Elder Benjamin J. Crouch, Jr., Pastor**

Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth, Officiant

The Obituary

Benjamin J. Crouch, Jr. was born March 31, 1940, in Los Angeles, California. He was the eldest of three children born to Benjamin and Catherine Crouch. Benjamin received his formal education in the Los Angeles school system and attended Valley College where he excelled in mathematics and science. He served his country in the United States Navy from 1958 to 1962, and continued his formal education there.

Childhood friends Benjamin Crouch and Marie Cantlo were united in holy matrimony July 28, 1963, at Emmanuel Church of God in Christ. This union was blessed with three children: Kenneth Scott, Keith Edward, and Sonia Lynette. Bennie and Marie enjoyed 31 years in a loving, caring relationship.

Benjamin's professional career spanned over 30 years with the City of Los Angeles. He began with the Department of Water and Power and was preparing to retire from his position of Traffic Signal Supervisor at the Department of Transportation.

Bishop and Mother Crouch nurtured in Benjamin at an early age a love for God and His church. He and his siblings would sing and play the tambourine while their parents preached on the streets and in revivals. Bennie grew up in Emmanuel Church of God in Christ under Samuel Crouch, his uncle, and then attended Masadonia Church of God in Christ in Val Verde when his parents were called there for one year. In 1951, Bishop Crouch was led to Pacoima to start Christ Memorial, where Bennie served faithfully.

In 1973, the Lord called Bennie, Marie, and their children to the First Foursquare Church of Van Nuys under the leadership of Pastor Jack Hayford. At The Church On The Way, he served as an elder and member of the church council for many years.

On January 16, 1994, Bennie and Marie followed the prompting of the Holy Spirit and reunited with Christ Memorial Church of God in Christ. Benjamin was appointed pastor of Christ Memorial in September of 1994.

Benjamin's parents, Bishop Benjamin J. Crouch, Sr. and Mother Catherine D. Crouch, preceded him to glory.

Pastor Benjamin J. Crouch, Jr. was graduated into life everlasting on Tuesday, February 7, 1995, at 7:20 p.m.

Benjamin's wife, children, family, church, friends, and co-workers loved and respected him. He will always be remembered for his unshakable character, integrity, boundless wisdom and knowledge, unquestionable authority, and a unique ability to treat and speak to people as he would have wanted to be treated and spoken to.

He leaves a loving wife, Marie; two sons, Kenneth and Keith; a daughter Sonia and her husband Greg; three foster children, Christina, Brittany, and Whitney; a brother Andrae; a sister Sandra; aunts, uncles, and many other relatives and friends.

Lovingly submitted,
Sonia L. Curry, Daughter

The Program



Praise and Worship	Choir and Congregation
Processional	"Bless the Lord"
Old Testament Scripture	Pastor Craig L. Grandy
	Psalm 30:4-5, 11-12
New Testament Scripture.	Pastor Walter R. Logan
	Jude 24, 25
Prayer of Comfort	Pastor L. David Herron
Hymn of Praise	"It Is Well"
Acknowledgments	Sister Angela Mc Zeal
Selection	Sister Pamela Deuel Hart
Remarks.	Elder L.V. Cook
	Evangelist Terri McFadden
	Mr. Ronnie Jackson
	Mother Gertie M. Houston
	Mother Barbara McCoo Lewis
	Bishop George McKinney
Musical Selection	Brother Kenneth Crouch
Selection	Brother Kipper Jones
Resolutions	Evangelist Norma J. Basley
	Pastor Edgar B. Barnett
Selection.	"You Been Good to Me"
	Sister Gloria Augustus, Soloist
Special Remarks	Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth
Obituary	Sister Sonia (Crouch) Curry
Selection	The Christ Memorial Choir
Tribute	Pastor Jack W. Hayford
Parting View	Selected Music
Recessional	"To God Be the Glory"

Pastor Edward G. McLachlan, M.C.



Active Pallbearers

The Elders, Ministers, and Deacons of Christ Memorial Church



Honorary Pallbearers

*The Pastors of Metropolitan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
and*

*Lorenzo Cantlo
Michael Cantlo
Wilfred Cantlo
Pleze Crawford, Jr.*

*Conrad Johnson
Willie Walker
Rodney Thompson
Brian Walker*

Internment - Forest Lawn, Hollywood Hills

Repast - Christ Memorial Social Hall



Acknowledgment

The family of Pastor Benjamin J. Crouch, Jr. thanks each of you for giving of yourselves at this time. We have been strengthened and lifted by your thoughtfulness and kindness. We ask that you keep us in your prayers.



A Man Greatly Beloved

A Tribute to My Respected Brother Bishop Benjamin Jerome Crouch

We had been forewarned, so we were not shocked. The man's human frame was wearing through from a lifetime of diligent service to God and man.

We had been advised by God's Word, so there was no shame. By the man's passing he simply kept an "appointment" we all face, so we felt no guilt. It was not as though our prayers had failed; for "it is appointed unto man once to die."

But even in the absence of shock or shame, there is no way we could be *unshaken*. I know I have been shaken—shaken by a sense of loss; by a sense of an era passing; by a sense of a great warrior ceasing his battles and now advancing to his eternal reward.

With all this, I am shaken by emotion, with the personal feeling of being a little lonelier as a leader because a great friend has gone ahead and I'll not meet him again until that Great Day.

As I received word of Bishop Crouch's passing, I was drawn to the words spoken by the angel who visited Daniel centuries ago:

"O Daniel, man greatly beloved . . . I have now been sent to you."

The angel's mission was to answer the prophet's prayer and to bring him God's revelation about the future. The episode came to my mind for two reasons.

First, it most touched my heart because of the evidence it gives that heaven calls some people "*Beloved*." The words of the angel do *not* suggest God cares less about some people than others, but it *does* show that some of His children do bring Him more satisfaction than others. "A man greatly beloved" is an appellation of affection—one which I deeply believe is appropriate in describing Bishop Crouch.

This is certainly expressive of *my* feelings, and I feel emboldened to say I think a host of fellow pastors throughout our City and Nation feel that exact thing: *A Beloved Bishop!* For more than four decades he served in the San Fernando Valley, and a quarter of a century of that time I have enjoyed the privilege of being his partner in ministry to this demanding sector of the greater parish of Los Angeles.

Second, the text from Daniel speaks to this moment because the angel's mission to that ancient prophet has a parallel to our beloved brother's circumstance. Just as the angel gladly greeted Daniel and came to show him things to come, so God's angel messengers arrived to greet a servant named Benjamin Crouch a few days ago—to take him and show him things to come!

The homegoing of this esteemed, respected, and beloved man will be honored and acknowledged by multitudes during the days to come. But at the present moment, and even as I express the above tribute, I want to pray; in so doing, to offer my ultimate and highest tribute to the Living God. Please pray with me:

Lord God Almighty, I praise You for the life and testimony of Benjamin Crouch.

I thank You for letting me know a servant like this, and for knowing his trust and friendship.

I praise You, Great God of grace, and honor You for Your wisdom that has placed a wise man in our midst for so many years of spiritually sensitive and powerful ministry. And,

I praise You that beyond the present moment, Your unshakeable Kingdom will advance in fruitfulness—continuing forward in the wake of the passing of my brother.

In the Name of Jesus Your Son, Who has redeemed us with His Blood and brought Your life and immortality to light through the Gospel, Amen.

PASTOR JACK HAYFORD

The Church On The Way

With special love and prayers for Elders Ben and Marie Crouch, all members of the Crouch family, and to the entire Congregation of Christ Memorial Church.